Dutchwoman in FARC has prominent role pg 2

Top economists cut US economic growth forecast pg 11

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Aruban youth join the worldwide 350.org movement to battle climate change

A momentous date to remember: 10.10.10



The date 10.10.10 was momentous to the region for a number of reasons; the disbanding of the Netherlands Antilles into five disparate entities, a record number of wedding ceremonies, and a commitment by island youth

to combat disastrous climate change.

A number of island youth groups, including Scouting Aruba, joined the 350.org worldwide movement involving 188 countries and 7,347 events to bring attention to

the situation of unwanted climate change and global warming. All over the world, people joined together to dig community gardens; install solar panels, plant trees and more.

Continued on page 3

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II names huge new liner



Britain's Queen Elizabeth (5th L), names Cunard's new crusie ship 'Queen Elizabeth.'.

LONDON, England (AFP) - Britain's queen named a giant new luxury cruise liner the Queen Elizabeth yesterday, christening the 92,000-ton vessel by smashing a bottle of white wine across the bow.

Queen Elizabeth II had a guided tour of the Italian-built ship, which is operated by the British-US Cunard Line, before the naming ceremony in the port of Southampton in southern England.

"I name this ship Queen Elizabeth. May God bless her and all who sail in her," the queen, dressed in a teal green hat and coat, said as she named the vessel.

She then pressed a button to send a bottle of Rothschild white wine -- tradtionally used by Cunard instead of champagne -- crashing into the front of the ship as it blew its horns.

The Queen Elizabeth is 964 feet (294 metres) long and can carry 2,068 passengers and

996 crew. She joins the Queen Mary 2 (QM 2) and the Queen Victoria in the Cunard fleet, being second in size only to the QM2.

"All of us at Cunard feel a great sense of pride in our new ship and today's ceremony," Cunard president Peter Shanks said.

"This pride stems from the continuation of our distinguished heritage and, of course, from the presence of Her Majesty the Queen."

The Queen Elizabeth sets off on its maiden voyage to Portugal, the Canary Islands and Madeira, today, with tickets costing 15,799 pounds (18,071 euros, 25,204 dollars) for a grand suite.

The current queen's mother launched the first ocean liner to bear the name Queen Elizabeth in 1938. In 1967, the queen launched the QE2, which remained in Cunard service until two years ago.



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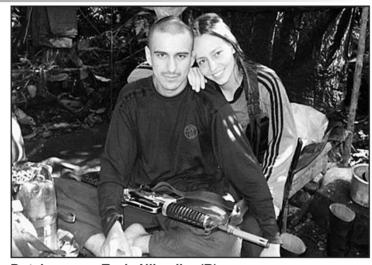
Dutchwoman in Colombia's FARC has prominent role

BOGOTA, Colombia — The Dutchwoman in the ranks of Colombia's Marxist FARC rebels is on their international committee, according to an email found in a computer of slain rebel leader Mono Jojoy, released Saturday by President Manuel Santos.

"Amid so many tragedies, Alexandra's arrival (the alias of Tanja Nijmeijer) is good news. Putting her on the international board was great," reads in part the message sent April 5 by rebel leader Carlos Lozada to Mono Jojoy, the alias of the rebel leader killed in the September 22 Colombian military raid.

"This Dutch national (...) todav is with the FARC, and we have some photos of her which I want to share with you," Santos said on releasing the email and photos of Nijmeijer in Medellin.

Colombian authorities first thought she might have been one of three women



Dutch woman Tanja Nijmeijer (R)

killed in the raid with Jojoy. But forensic and dental records later showed that was not the case, they said.

The military leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Victor Julio Suarez, known as Jorge Briceno or Mono Jojoy, was killed in an air and ground assault on September 22.

Media reports from May 2010 indicated that Nijmeijer, who joined the FARC several years ago after working as a teacher in Colombia, was believed to be working as Briceno's personal assistant.

Born in 1978, she first drew international attention when parts of her diaries

were discovered and published after a 2007 raid.

In the entries, she wondered how her life would be different if she had not joined the Marxist movement.

"Would I have been happy as a civilian in the Netherlands?" The New York Times quoted her as saying in the diaries. "Engaged, married with children?"

But later in the same entry, she seemed proud of her chosen path.

"I've seen it all. Here I move like a fish in water, the jungle is my home. The FARC is my life, my family," she said.

UN welcomes Rwandan war crimes suspect's arrest

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) -A top UN official welcomed the arrest yesterday of Rwandan rebel leader Callixte Mbarushimana, wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"This is a very important signal to all perpetrators in the DRC that crimes of sexual violence are not tolerated and that the international community is fully committed to bringing these individuals to justice," said Margot Wallstrom, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special representative on sexual violence in conflict.

"We hope to finally see the beginning of the end of impunity for crimes of sexual violence in the DRC."

She also urged officials to "engage all the resources at our disposal" to arrest others involved in orchestrating mass rapes that took place in Walikale territory, in the eastern province of North Kivu.

French authorities earlier arrested Mbarushimana, 47, acting on a warrant issued in September by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

The ICC said Mbarushi-

mana faces five charges of crimes against humanity and six war crimes charges for murders, rapes, torture and destruction of property in eastern DR Congo in 2009.

He was arrested in Paris, where he has lived as a leaderin-exile of the Rwandan Hutu rebel group the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), having received refugee status in France in 2003, it added.

The crimes were allegedly committed during a series of "widespread and systematic attacks" by FDLR fighters against civilians in the Nord Kivu and Sud Kivu provinces, according to ICC prosecutors.

They said there were reasonable grounds to believe Mbarushimana "personally and intentionally contributed" to plotting "widespread and systematic attacks against the civilian population in order to create a humanitarian catastrophe" which could be exploited for political gain.

Some Hutu rebels who are members of the FDLR are accused of having participated in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which witnessed the killings of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

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THE MORNING NEWS

Editors

Rosalie Klein

AFP-Agence France Presse

themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

First arrest in Hungarian toxic mud disaster, as toll rises

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AFP) - Hungarian police arrested yesterday the managing director of the company at the center of a toxic sludge disaster, as the body of the last missing person was recovered, bringing the death toll to eight.

The MAL Hungarian Aluminium Production and Trade Company's managing director Zoltan Bakonyi was taken into custody for questioning in connection with the deadly toxic spill, the National Investigative Office said in a statement.

At the same time, the body of the last person missing was recovered a week after Hungary's worst-ever chemical accident, the regional chief of the disaster relief services, Tibor Dobson told the Hungarian news agency

Officials added that 45

people remain in hospital, two in very serious condition.

The two villages of Devecser and Kolontar were hardest hit when a reservoir of chemical residue at an alumina plant in Ajka, 160 kilometers (100 miles) west of Budapest, burst, sending a torrent of toxic red sludge across an area of 40 square kilometers (15.4 square miles). The sludge also polluted the Danube river and

many of its tributaries.

Now officials fear the area could be inundated with another toxic flood from a likely second break in the reservoir walls. Engineers, volunteers and disaster relief teams were racing against the clock to finish building a new dam to contain a possible new wave of slurry with heavy rain forecast for later this week.







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The weekly Bon Bini Festival is tonight!

ORANJESTAD weekly Bon Bini festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminstraat. The festival is for tourists and locals to mix and mingle and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture

This weeks the festival will feature the traditional Aruban Caha d'Orgel. "Ban Baile," musical group; "Tico y Sus Estrellas," Dance groups: "Kids & Youth in Action," and "The Superdancers," solo singer: "Jose David," and steel band: "Tradition Steelband." MC is absolute solution absolute focal color culture, and get a taste of Dushi Aruba.

The festival is from to 8:30 p.m. Entrance Aruban florins or US\$3.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and handicraft on sale.

Arubus has regularly scheduled bus transport from all hotel areas to Oranjestad's central terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is US\$2.30.

Come, meet the islands. absorb some local color and culture, and get a taste of our

The festival is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Entrance is 5

Russia to launch rockets from French site in 2011

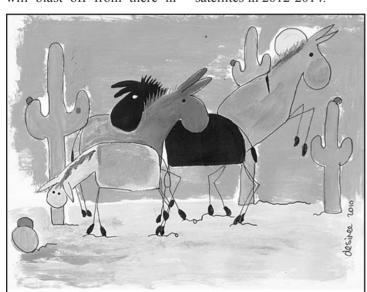
KOUROU, French Guiana --Russia was to launch its medium- class space rocket Soyuz-ST from the Kourou space center in French Guiana in April 2011, the Interfax news agency reported yesterday. The launch from Kourou site will be the first for Russian space program.

According to Arianespace company that operated the launching complex in South America, three Russian rockets will blast off from there in

Arianespace signed contract on 18 launches of the Sovuz-ST booster rocket and ordered 24 Russian rockets. The first two have already been dispatched to Kourou.

In the next 15 years Russia and France have planned to launch at least 50 rockets from Guiana

Russian rockets will be used, in particular, to orbit ten European Galileo navigation satellites in 2012-2014.



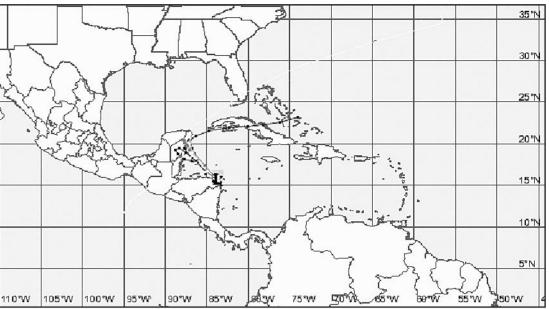
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Caribbean disturbance strengthening into a tropical depression



MIAMI, Florida -- The disturbance in the Caribbean apparently is strengthening into a tropical depression, if not Tropical Storm Paula.

The disturbance will aim toward Mexico's Yucatan and then curve toward South Florida, arriving near the Keys on Thursday.

If that scenario plays out, several questions would remain, as in whether a cold front descending across the United States would keep it to our south – and just how strong it might be when it's in this neighborhood.

In any case, the hurricane center gives the system a "near

100 percent chance" of devel-

Tropical storm watches and warnings was posted along the coasts of Central America and Mexico yesterday afternoon, as that region can expect heavy rainfall from the system over the next few days

Aruban youth join the worldwide 350.org movement to battle climate change

Continued from page 1

The 350.org event was sending a clear message to political leaders: "if we can get to work, so can you!" The name is derived from the goal to lower the CO2 level in the atmosphere to 350ppm, which is considered to be "safe."

Aruba was part of such efforts as fixing bike paths in Auckland, New Zealand to get people out of their cars and again using emissionfree transport or a solar powered concert in Croatia, by planting a Flamboyan tree at the Aruba Tourist Authority offices in Oranjestad. Such was the scope and geography projects all through 10.10.10.

The adorable youngsters of the Belissima Scout Troup arrived with their very youngest member sharing a

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wagon with the young tree, accompanied by a number of scout troops and a marching drum band. Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber participated in the event, along with several scout troops and Aruba's Youth Parliament.

Through this community

action, with one voice, island youngsters expressed their concern for their environment and the world they will inherit. They are looking towards those in power today to help them guarantee a better world for them in the future.

by Rosalie Klein

Let's fight Dengue with these five points

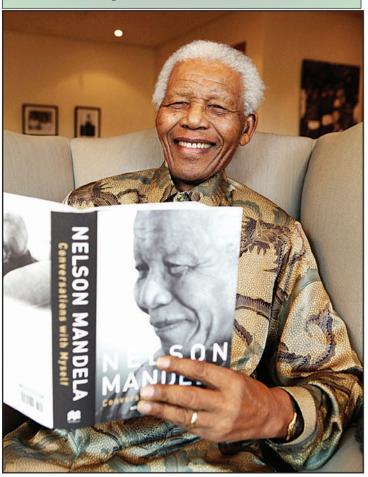
by: Roland W. Peterson

- Prepare your home, garden, and yard. Follow the recommendations of the Department of Health and KGB - The Yellow Mosquito & Fever **Control Department**
- Avoid breeding grounds.
- Prevent: be being prepared, you can prevent Dengue mosquito spread their wings and lay
- Persist: Follow the Dengue mosquito. Do not give it a chance to breed. Continue keeping your home Dengue free.
- Protect: Protect your health, your family's health and also of your neighbor.
- Talk: Motivate others to also fight Dengue

KEEP ARUBA DENGUE FREE. IT'S BETTER FOR YOU AND I



I'm no saint, Mandela says in excerpt from new book



Nelson Mandela poses with a copy of the British edition of his newly released book "Conversations with Myself"

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) – A new collection of Nelson Mandela's private papers reveals his years of heartache at missing his family while in prison and his wariness at becoming idolised, in excerpts published Sunday.

The book "Conversations with Myself" goes on sale today, but passages printed in British and South African papers show his thoughts on everything from the danger of corruption in power to his grief at his son's death.

Decades' worth of letters, diaries and private recordings were distilled by his eponymous Foundation in a project that purports to show the private man behind the global icon.

Now 92, the man who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle against the white-minority apartheid government says he doesn't want to be remembered as a larger-than-life saint

"One issue that deeply worried me in prison was the false image I unwittingly projected to the outside world; of being egarded as a saint," he said ."I never was one, even on the basis of the earthly definition of a saint as a sinner who keeps trying."

After 27 years in prison for resisting apartheid rule, Mandela was released in 1990 and led negotiations with the government that culminated in his election as the country's first black president in 1994.

He stepped down in 1999, after serving one term in office. Today he appears frail and makes few public appearances since retiring from public life in 2004.

He remains deeply revered in South Africa, and although he has spoken publicly about his shortcomings, critical talk is almost non-existent about the man known fondly by his clan name Madiba.

The book appears to invite a more rounded discussion of his life, while also focusing on the enormous personal sacrifices required by his devotion to the liberation struggle.

A big 'thank you!' from the 4th Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

Guess what: the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival 2010 is just behind us, but preparations for the 5th edition are already starting. With 5000 visitors, this year's festival was a major success. One thousand more jazz fans showed up, even though the weather threatened not to cooperate.

Absolute highlights were Marcus Miller, Issac Delgado, Red Fulka, Lao Tizer and Cosy Cotton, with Datapanik, Sazon Cubano, Offshore, Serghio and Ivan Jansen, the Mystical Connection and the fantastic performance of TimbAche making lasting impressions.

From organizer Erik Eman and his super crew, a huge 'thank you' goes to all the sponsors, the great performers, the enthusiastic vendors and the absolutely wonderful audience who have made the 2010 edition of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival such a major success. And now on towards the 2011 anniversary of the event!

Picture show organizer Erik Eman with headliner of his festival Marcus Miller.



This Sunday October 17 at Cas di Cultura: Pierewietje y Flash presents 'Happy Show'





The kids of Pierewietje and Flash are in full training, preparing themselves for the grand premiere of their presentation "Happy Show", on Sunday, October 17 at the Cas di Cultura. There will only be two presentations, both on Sunday.

The name "Happy Show" speaks for itself, it is a joyful show for everyone. It has a variety of singing and dancing, it is colorful, and will be presented by talented kids, big and small. Come see characters like Diego and Dora, Boots and Swiper, Backyardigans, Mickey and Minnie, the small dancing frog, and much more.

There will be only two presentations, so do not wait till the last moment to get you ticket as seats are limited.



ment to get you ticket as seats are limited. Tickets are available at Welcome Snack, Coffee Break and parents of the youngsters of Pierewietje and Flash, for only Afls. 20. The shows are on Sunday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors special guests



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Mr. Peter and Mrs. Roxanne Sturm as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The distinction is bestowed on visitors who have been coming to Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years. The honorees were very happy with this recognition and said to be enchanted with our is-

land. "The people are so friendly," they stated. Aruba Tourism Authority associate Mrs. Mandy Lopez handed them a certificate as a 'thank you' gesture for their love and loyalty to Aruba. Also present at the occasion was Marriott Aruba Surf Club's Executive Administrative Assistant Mrs. Frea Kraag.

Meanwhile, at the Amsterdam Manor, Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Maria Itri were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. This distinction is for visitors visiting our island for 20 or more consecutive years. The Itris came to Aruba for the first time for their honeymoon, 22 years ago. Since then they have been returning every year



faithfully.

Mrs. Mandy Lopez handed them a beautiful certificate, thanking them for their appreciation of our island, in presence of Amsterdam Manor's

GM Mr. Jurgen van Schaijk Photos show, at left Mr. and Mrs. Sturm, and, at right, Mr. and Mrs. Itri proudly showing off their certificates



*matinee: thursday - sunday | **late show: friday & saturday

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late show:	12.13 - 2.30	PG	matinee: late show:		PG



LEGEND OF THE **GUARDIANS: THE** OWLS OF GA'HOOLE (KIDS/FAM

SOREN, IS A YOUNG OWL EN-EPIC STORIES OF THE GUARDIANS OF GA'HOOLE, A MYTHIC BAND OF WINGED A GREAT BATTLE TO SAVE ALL OF OWL KIND FROM THE EVIL PURE ONES. WHILE SOREN **DREAMS OF SOMEDAY JOINING** BROTHER, KLUDD, SCOFFS AT HUNT, FLY AND STEAL HIS FA

THER'S FAVOR FROM HIS YOUNGER SIBLING. BUT KLUDD'S JEALOUSY HAS TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES--CAUSING BOTH OWLETS TO FALL FROM THEIR TREETOP HOME AND RIGHT INTO THE TALONS OF THE PURE ONES. NOW IT IS UP TO SOREN TO MAKE A DARING ESCAPE WITH THE HELP OF OTHER BRAVE YOUNG OWLS. TOGETHER THEY SOAR ACROSS THE SEA AND THROUGH THE MIST TO FIND THE GREAT TREE, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY GUARDIANS OF GA'HOOLE--SOREN'S ONLY HOPE OF DEFEATING THE PURE ONES AND SAVING THE OWL KINGDOMSVERY DIFFERENT FROM REDEMPTION.

Sci-Tech

US treats first patient with human embryonic stem cells

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US doctors have begun treating the first patient with embryonic stem cells as part of the first human study of the controversial treatment authorized by the government, the Geron Corporation said Mon-

The patient was enrolled at the Shepherd Center spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, where Geron began clinical trials of their GRNOPC1 human embryonic stem cells in treating patients with devastating spinal cord injuries.

The trial comes just 11 years after Geron began working with human embryonic stem cells in 1999, when

"many predicted that it would be a number of decades before a cell therapy would be approved for human clinical trials," said Thomas Okarma, Geron's president and CEO.

"Initiating the GRNOPC1 clinical trial is a milestone for the field of human embryonic stem cell-based therapies," Okarma said.

Geron got clearance in January last year to conduct human trials of GRNOPC1 embryonic stem cells, which are highly versatile, primitive cells capable of developing into any tissue.

Preclinical studies have shown that GRNOPC1 significantly improved locomotor activity of animals with spinal cord injuries when injected seven days after the injury.

Participants in the study must be newly injured and receive GRNOPC1 between seven and 14 days of sustaining their injury.

David Apple, Shepherd Center's medical director, said the clinical trial was a key step forward in attempts to find a cure for paralysis in people with spinal cord in-

The ultimate goal is to inject GRNOPC1 cells into the spines of paralyzed human volunteers in the hope that this will prompt damaged nerve cells to regrow, enabling the patients to eventually recover feeling and movement.

Completion date for UAE renewable energy city pushed back



DUBAI (AFP) - The completion date for Abu Dhabi's Masdar City, set to be the first in the world powered solely by renewable energy, has been pushed back until between 2020 and 2025, Masdar said on Sunday.

Phase one of the renewable energy enclave, including the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology campus, is now slated for completion in 2015, a statement said.

PARIS (AFP) - World football's ruling body FIFA are currently poring over a raft of

FIFA initially asked 17 companies to submit proposals for goal-mouth technology that would allow referees to determine, almost immediately, whether the ball has crossed the goalline.

FIFA have previously re-

The renewable energy Masdar company "source" in Arabic -- had previously said the city, which was begun in early 2008, was "due to be completed by 2016.

"We're building (on) take-up of our tenants, and... based on what's happened in the market, the acquisition of tenants has slowed down a little," Masdar City director Alan Frost told AFP when asked about the delay.

He also said that building over a longer period allows new technologies to be tested and incorporated.

Frost said the estimated cost of Masdar City was now 10 to 15 percent lower than previously, putting it between 18.7 and 19.8 billion dollars, instead of 22 billion dollars.

He said that driverless electric "Personal Rapid Transit" vehicles are now being tested, and will transport people from a parking area to Masdar Institute when testing is complete later this month or in early to mid No-



vember.

The company is looking into electric buses and possibly electric taxis for transport in later phases of the city's development, Frost added.

Masdar City will still run on renewable energy, but not all of this power will be generated on site, the statement

The city "will no longer rely solely on on-site clean energy sources. Instead, the purchase of renewable energy from off-site locations may also be utilised as energy demands increase over the project's lifetime," it said.

FIFA studying goal-line technology proposals

proposals that could finally end years of goal-line contro-

> buffed all demands to use video technology to resolve contentious refereeing decisions, despite it being successfully implemented in

other sports such as tennis. cricket and rugby union.

Their rationale has been that it would disrupt the free-flowing movement of the game.

However calls for goalline technology have increased, especially in the wake of a glaring World Cup blunder in South Africa when a goal scored by England midfielder Frank Lampard against Germany was disallowed.

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Health & Living

Jaundice newborns prone to develop autism: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Infants born with jaundice are at much greater risk of developing autism, a study published Monday showed.

The study published in the US journal Pediatrics found full-term infants born in Denmark between 1994 and 2004 who had jaundice were 67 percent more likely to develop autism.

Neonatal jaundice is usually caused by elevated production of bilirubin, a substance found in bile that results from the normal breakdown of red blood cells.

Jaundice is seen in 60 percent of term infants and usually resolves within the first week of life, but prolonged exposure to high bilirubin levels is neurotoxic and can cause lifelong developmental problems, the study says.

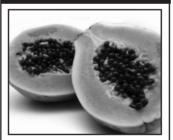
In this study researchers found the risk of autism was higher if the mother had had previous children, or, somewhat oddly, if the child was born between October and March.

The risk for autism disappeared if the child was a first-born child or was born between April and September. Authors suggest the seasonal difference may be due to different levels of exposure to daylight, which has an effect on jaundice, or due to infections.

The difference in risk in firstborn versus subsequent children could be due to different levels of antibodies in women who have had multiple pregnancies, or it could reflect different levels of access to health care in the first days after delivery.

In Denmark, women with healthy term newborns who have already had children are discharged soon after delivery. Women having their first child remain in the hospital for three to four days, and so jaundice may be diagnosed while the infant is still in the hospital.

Papaya



Go for the tropical and the exotic. Buy a papaya next time you're at your grocer - and increase your beta-carotene intake.

Key benefits

Papaya is thought to bring about a reduced risk of colon and cervical cancer. It is a rich source of beta-carotene, which the body can convert to vitamin A. It also contains beta-cryptoxanthin.

Maximising the benefits

As beta- cryptoxanthin is best absorbed by the body when eaten with fat, it is a good idea to eat papaya as part of a meal, rather than on their own.

Nutritional values

Calories 57
Vitamin C 37 mg
Fibre 2,6 mg
Vitamin E 1 mg
Per 100g

Halloween Chocolate a serious threat to pets



Chocolate Halloween candy may be a treat for children but poses a serious threat to pets, warns an expert.

Pets who consume chocolate can experience vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and urination, irregular heartbeat, tremors, seizures and even death, said Susan Nelson, a Kansas State University veterinarian. These problems are mainly caused by a substance in chocolate called theobromine.

Different types of chocolate have varying concentrations of theobromine. Baking chocolate contains the most, semisweet and milk chocolate sport a medium amount, and white chocolate has the least, Nelson explained in a university news release. If your pet consumes a large quantity of chocolate, you should call a veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately, Nelson said.

"Chocolate consumption is a very common problem among pets, dogs especially," but it can also harm cats, birds, rats and ferrets, Nelson said in the news release. "It is important to recognize that individual reactions vary by pets, but it is best to assume your pet is one of the sensitive ones and not delay in seeking advice from your veterinarian.

In order to protect pets, she suggests keeping all foods out of their reach and confining pets during family gatherings and parties so that guests don't feed them.























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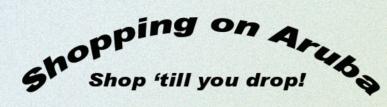
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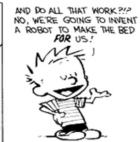


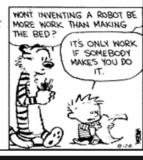


CALVIN and HOBBES









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ACROSS

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Record rubber level pushes Continental to raise tyre prices

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) - German auto parts er Continental said yesterday it would raise the price of tyres by an average of five percent next year owing to a record high in rubber prices.

The measure will be applied to replacement summer tyres sold under several brand names by Continental, the biggest European tyre distributor, a statement said.

"At well over three dollars per kilo, the prices for natural rubber are now at a historic high." the company explained.

Natural rubber accounts for more than 40 percent of a tyre, and Continental was working hard "to find alternatives to gradually replace it," the statement added.

Rival tyre maker Michelin said in July it might also have to raise its prices.

Top economists cut US economic growth forecast

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US economy is set to grow more slowly than previously thought this year and the next, and government indebtedness is the biggest worry, a group of top business economists said yesterday.

The National Association Business Economics (NABE) said its outlook panel cut 2010 growth predictions for gross domestic product, a broad measure of the nation's goods and services output, to 2.6 percent.

In the last NABE outlook survey, in May, the panel had forecast GDP would expand at a 3.2 percent annual pace.

"Most of the markdown reflects worse-than-expected summer results and a dimmed outlook," the NABE said in publishing its October 2010 Outlook Survey.

The survey predicted GDP growth would accelerate gradually during 2011, but remain moderate.

For the poll conducted September 2-21, the 46 professional forecasters and NABE members trimmed their 2011 forecast by the same magnitude, to 2.6 percent from 3.2 percent.

"This summer's slowdown has exposed the economy's sensitivity to wealth losses, the unwinding of debt and the reductions in economic stimulus," said NABE presidentelect Richard Wobbekind, associate dean of the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Wobbekind said that despite scaled back growth expectations for 2011, "confidence in the expansion's durability is intact."

But economists' biggest concern remained the US government's yawning deficit, due to falling tax revenues and massive stimulus spending to support recovery from the worst recession in decades.

The NABE panel predicted the federal deficit would narrow slightly in fiscal 2011, which ends on September 30, by over a billion dollars. But at 1.2 trillion dollars, they said the shortfall would remain "extreme."

"NABE panelists continue to characterize excessive federal indebtedness as their single greatest concern going forward, even exceeding worries about high unemployment, and far greater than either inflation or deflation," NABE

The government's fiscal imbalances form a key issue in the upcoming November 2 legislative elections, in which President Barack Obama's Democratic allies are expected to lose some seats in Congress to the Republican opposition.

In July, the Obama administration predicted the deficit in just-ended fiscal 2010 would exceed the previous year's record in nominal terms.

The deficit for fiscal year 2009 rose to a record 1.42 trillion dollars.

Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke has put the issue high on the central bank's agenda.

Last week, he called for quick and decisive steps to cut the deficit, warning of a "real and growing threat" to the world's largest economy.

"The only real question is whether these adjustments will take place through a careful and deliberative process... or whether the needed fiscal adjustments will be a rapid and painful response to a looming or actual fiscal crisis," Bernanke said.

An estimate published by the Congressional Budget Office last week, the primary budget watchdog of Congress, put the 2010 fiscal federal deficit at nearly 1.3 trillion dol-

The Treasury Department is scheduled to release official deficit numbers on Friday.

Brazil identified as one of the emerging markets for Caribbean destinations

BRASILIA, Brazil -- Brazil has being identified as one of the emerging markets that Caribbean tourism stakehol-

France wants non-EU funds fully regulated

PARIS, France (AFP) - France is not against foreign hedge funds operating in Europe, contrary to US charges, but wants them to be regulated, preferably via a Europeanwide body, a French document showed yesterday.

In a letter to US Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde said that France was not taking a protectionist stance on one of the important regulatory reforms sought after the global financial crisis.

Rather, France believed that such non-European, offshore funds should have the same access to the European market as before, Lagarde said in a letter addressed to Geithner on Fri-

But with negotiations on

their access to the market "entering a decisive phase," according to Lagarde, the issue now turns on how they will be regulated.

Currently, such hedge funds must seek clearance from each national jurisdiction but they want such approval to give them the right to operate throughout Europe -- in effect, to serve as a 'passport' for all the countries.

Lagarde said, however, that France could not agree with this because it would mean these foreign funds, if cleared by just one EU member, were not subject to the same regulatory norms as European hedge

The idea of "same rules, same rights," does not apply to products which differ from those offered by the Europeanbased funds, she added.

Additionally, "it would be somewhat paradoxical if a directive seeking to regulate such speculative funds actually makes it easier for them to operate," she said in the letter.

In this case, "if a 'passport' for offshore funds has to be adopted, France believes that it ought to be a really European (one)," Lagarde said, adding that that would involve their management being "registered with and supervised" by European regulators.

Earlier this month, Geithner told Lagarde that any proposal that would limit or delay access to such a regulatory 'passport' for non-European funds, while European groups got full EU access, would be discriminatory and contrary to engagements already given

ders believes can make a major difference once the correct marketing strategies are put in place.

'We can think about it today and say that it will not work, but I am sure you will remember when the UK was not our major market. Now it is because of all the work we have done. So I tell you it will be an absurdity for any minister or director of tourism to ignore the Brazilian market, which is now recognized as one of the fastest growing in terms of development," said Barbados Tourism Minister Richard Sealy.

Barbados already has a weekly flight from Brazil, and according to Sealy, the Brazilians are looking for options other than the United States and Europe. "The flight is not always full, it is usually between sixty and forty percent occupancy, and although presently it is paying margin, I should let you know that it's an ongoing project, and we are not short-

sighted," he told reporters attending the Caribbean Tourism Organization Leadership Strategy Conference in

He also stressed the importance of exploring and developing other emerging markets such as China, while at the same time expressing concern over the continuing decline in the British market, saying he was "terribly troubled."

"Our UK numbers continue to be in decline, 8.1 percent, a big worry for us, because not only is it our largest market, but it is also the market where most of our visitor spend comes from," he stated.

The minister said initiatives were being considered to reverse that situation, while noting Barbados and the region were awaiting the final decision of the new British coalition government on the controversial Airline Passenger Duty being imposed on passengers traveling to the Caribbean.

Have you had your breakfast today? The Old Fisherman offers breakfast with an Aruban twist



Linda and Ramon Pimienta with their son Raymond, at right

When Linda and Ramon Pimienta started their small business at the old wharf down town, little did they know that they had a gold-mine when it comes to the perfect blend of international and local cuisine. Nowadays, they are located right behind the Royal Plaza Mall where they serve up a storm to visitors and locals alike. What is their secret? Offering high quality dishes at super prizes that fit anyone's budget.

have been with the company for ten years are ready to serve you with a smile.

Besides serving traditional breakfast dishes such as eggs sunny side up with ham and cheese, scrambled or plain they also serve pastechi horna (a small pie pocket with different fillings), crêpes, sweet crêpes and bagels with cream cheese, smoked salmon or boiled eggs.

If you want to really experience the Aruban twist you might want to try something



For ten years The Old Fisherman has been serving local cuisine with an international twist for lunch and dinner and they have managed to stay on top by using high quality fresh ingredients. From their fish cakes with

from the local breakfast menu served on pan grandi (rama) or a baguette. You can try the delicious kerrie-kerrie (a typical Aruban flaked fish), conch, fish egg, shrimp, fish fillet, fish cake and the chicken soup or you can have



"funchi" (polenta) and "pan bati" nicely presented to soup of the day accompanied by delicious deserts.

Now they are serving you breakfast with an Aruban twist at bargain prizes.

Monica and Amarilis who

fruit salad and yoghurt.

A perfect restaurant for all in the family.

Whatever your taste might be you are assured that at the Old Fisherman there is a dish on the menu for you at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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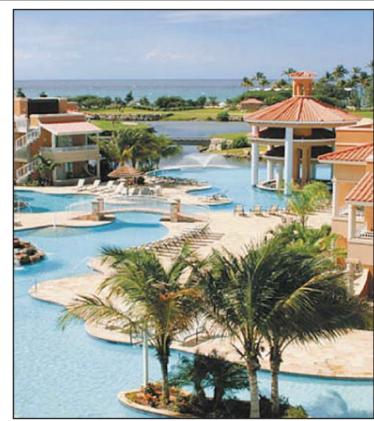
Divi Resorts is announcing its latest development on the island of Aruba - The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort!

We've had great success increasing the timeshare offering on Aruba, however many of our visitors are now requesting a full ownership option rather than weekly accommodation.

To meet this growing demand for a year round Caribbean resort lifestyle, we are now offering luxury full ownership condominiums, The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

The Residences are nestled within the lush greens of the Links at Divi Aruba golf course, adjacent to the new Golf Villas, and share the many amenities of the resort that you know so well: 3 sparkling pools, 3 restaurants, tennis courts, oceanfront fitness center, and more!

Each Residence is available fully furnished, with cool Caribbean colors complimented by rich dark woods. Kitchens are equipped with stylish stainless steel appliances, and modern conve-



niences. As always, our private balconies take advantage of soothing breezes and island views. If you are interested in this exciting new development, we invite you to visit our condominium sales office at the 2nd floor of the Links at Divi Aruba clubhouse next

to Windows on Aruba restaurant.

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J. K. Rowling most influential woman in Britain: survey

LONDON (AFP) - Leading magazine editors on Monday named J. K. Rowling the most influential woman in Britain, judging the Harry Potter author more powerful than Queen Elizabeth II.

Rowling, who has won global fame with her series of popular children's books about the boy wizard, topped the list compiled by editors from the National Magazine Company, which publishes 20 magazines in Britain.

They cited her writing skills, tenacity to succeed and philanthropic nature, said the company.

In second place was pop



star turned fashion designer Victoria Beckham -- wife of footballer David Beckham -with the queen pushed into the third spot. Other women who made it into the top 10 were Prime Minister David Cameron's wife, Samantha Cameron, and fashion designer Vivienne Westwood.

The list was compiled to mark the centenary of the National Magazine Company whose publications in Britain include Good Housekeeping, Country Living and Harper's Bazaar.

US First Lady Michelle Obama last week topped this year's Forbes magazine list of powerful women, replacing German leader Angela Merkel.



Foreign fashion invasion raises hemlines in Myanmar

YANGON (AFP) - All eyes in the Yangon restaurant were on glamorous celebrity Chan Chan Clare, a pioneer in Myanmar's burgeoning fashion scene, as she glided across to the table in a tiny sequinned dress.

"Sorry I'm late," said the bubbly 22-year-old model and singer, ordering a soft drink from the hovering, rapt waiters before sitting down to discuss the latest sartorial trends in the army-ruled country.

She is busy promoting her first solo album and named singing stars Beyonce and Celine Dion as her main influences, but Chan Chan made her name through clothes modelling, a job she claimed "every girl" in Myanmar wants.

"More and more girls like to wear short skirts. We're growing every day and finding every new fashion. We go on the Internet and chat and see lots of fashion from the West and Asia," she said.

"So in the last three years we've had more confidence to wear these kind of things. No one looks at you if you wear short pants... It's not a problem now."

"Appropriate measures need to be taken by one and all to protect own culture," the English language article warned.

Myanmar's traditional dress, which is still mandatory in high schools, universities and most state workplaces, is the demure "longyi" -- a sheet of cotton or silk cloth wrapped around the waist which runs to the fact.



This picture shows a Myanmar woman wearing a short skirt talking on her mobile phone as she walks past a fashion store in Yangon.

Sported by the country's detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi in her rare public appearances, the often intricately patterned and brightly coloured longyi is still widely worn by both men and women across the country.

But the younger generation, especially urbanised young women, are increasingly shunning the national garb and embracing unconventional alternatives as they brush aside concerns about morals and modesty.

"Now they know the fashion has developed in our country and now they feel very comfortable wearing short skirts. They know the freedoms. They believe in themselves and they've got

lots of self-confidence," said Chan Chan.

Male fashions are evolving too -- there's a growing taste for the rock music-inspired youth style known as "emo", for example -- but women's changing dress sense has unsurprisingly drawn more attention in the conservative nation.

One expatriate worker suggested the noticeable development began in the commercial hub Yangon after the regime moved the seat of government and its officials away from the city in 2005.

The timing coincided with the "Korean wave" -- the South Korean cultural invasion that has swept up Myanmar as it floods much of Asia and the wider world with its soap operas, films, "Kpop" and clothing. "South Koreans look

"South Koreans look so fabulous and stylish in our eyes," enthused Chan Chan, who said the top K-wave fashion items --such as little skirts and jackets, shorts and leggings -- were easy to buy and wear in Myanmar.

The craze for all things Korean is particularly striking in a nation widely known for its impoverished and isolated status after decades of military rule. Even Korean celebrity look-alike contests are now held in Yangon.

"The problem is that Myanmar's traditional fashion cannot overcome the Korean fashion," said designer Ma May Myo. "It can't compete because young girls want to wear something light and different and cute.

"They want to show off and you can't do that in a longyi."

The 34-year-old dressmaker, who set up her popular label in Yangon five years ago, said the demand from her customers for Korean-influenced styles shows no signs of abating.

"The situation has changed a lot," she said. "We can see through the Internet what is happening abroad: what designers are doing and the latest trends. It's not difficult like it was before."

"But the people don't listen. They put on the clothes they want," she said. "It's a good, exciting time for fashion in Myanmar."

Armless pianist wins China talent show: report

SHANGHAI (AFP) - An armless young man who plays the piano with his toes has won China's version of an internationally popular TV talent show, Chinese media reported Monday.

Liu Wei, 23, wowed the audience by singing the song "You're Beautiful" as he worked the piano keys with his feet in the final of "China's Got Talent" on Sunday at the Shanghai Stadium, the Shanghai Daily reported.

Liu has already been compared to Susan Boyle, the unemployed Scottish spinster who became a global phenomenon last year when she stunned judges on "Britain's Got Talent" with her performance of "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables".

The Beijing native, who lost his arms at the age of 10 after touching a high-voltage wire during a game of hide-and-seek, defeated other finalists including Zhang Fengxi, a seven-year old comedian who took second place.

Liu moved the audience in the stadium and TV viewers when he said "at least I have a pair of perfect legs", according to the report.

At the ceremony on Sunday, Liu was invited by Taiwanese singer Jolin Tsai to be a guest performer during her overseas tour. The report said he may also receive a performance contract, without elaborating.

The ceremony also featured other winners from the overseas version of the show such as Paul Potts, the singer who won "Britain's Got Talent" in 2007 and the dance group Diversity, which beat Boyle in 2009's programme.

Nadal prepares for Shanghai Masters bow



The Spanish top seed, who arrived in China on Sunday after defeating Gael Monfils for the Japan Open crown, will open play in the second round at the Qi Zhong stadium against the winner of Stanislas Wawrinka and Gilles Simon.

Before rain disrupted play on Monday, French 12th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga saw off Spain's Feliciano Lopez 7-6

(7-4) 6-3 to reach the second round.

Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, who upset Nadal on his way to winning the Thailand Open in Bangkok last week, began his Shanghai campaign by coming back from behind to beat Argen-Eduardo tine Schwank 6-7 (8-10) 6-2 6-4.

Andy Murray is hoping to regain some form after a few poor efforts, including a quarter-final defeat last week in Beijing to Croatian Ivan Ljubi-

The Scottish fourth seed will open in the second round when he faces the winner between dangerous Czech Radek

Stepanek and Chinese wild card Bai Yan, who are playing on Tuesday. The top eight seeds were given first round byes.

Murray did not compete in the event a year ago when it switched over from the yearend Masters Cup to an outdoor Masters tournament.

"I only played obviously

the indoor event in the Masters Cup, this is my first time here," Murray said. "I would like to win some matches here. It would be nice."

Tsonga said he was rebuilding his game after months out with knee prob-

'When you don't play for two or three months, you lose your tennis," the former Australian Open finalist said.

"When you come back, you start to zero. It was important to win my first match, and today I did it. I'm just really happy because it was not easy."

Three more Frenchmen took to the court, with Jeremy Chardy defeating Marcos Baghdatis 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 and Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka eliminating Gilles Simon 6-4, 6-1, while Juan Monaco of Argentina ended the week early for Florent Serra 6-4, 7-

Roland Garros semi-finalist Jurgen Melzer struggled to get past Yang Tsung-Hua of Taiwan 6-4 7-6 (7-5) in a match halted for more than an hour by rain during the second set.

The match started in the open air but ended indoors as officials closed the stadium roof to give the court a chance to dry out.



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High security for Mexico-Venezuela match in

CIUDAD JUAREZ (AFP) -Hundreds of security forces deployed across the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez Monday ahead of a football match many hoped would provide relief from spiralling

The president of Mexico's

More than 3,000 police ioined hundreds of soldiers to help secure the airport, ho-

city which has registered more than 2,000 murders this year, an average of around seven per day.

Ciudad Juarez, a city of some 1.3 million, is at the heart of a wave of drug-related attacks blamed for more than 28,000 deaths nationwide since 2006.

An armed gang chased and shot dead three youths near a hospital emergency room in the latest violence Monday, police said.

Soldiers met the Venezuelan team at the airport and 10 police vehicles and an ambulance followed them around the city.

Venezuelan coach Cesar Farias said the heavy security did not bother the players.

Violent crime is also a concern in Venezuela, which has the region's highest murder rate according to leaked official figures showing more than 19,000 murders in 2009.

Violent attacks have escalated in Ciudad Juarez since the Mexican team last played there three years ago.

Ciudad Juarez

violence there.

football federation said Tues-Mexico-Venezuela day's friendly would demonstrate "that society is above crime," when he announced the game in the city across from El Paso, Texas, in August.

tels, stadium and fans in the

World champ Hooker on top, India win historic gold NEW DELHI (AFP) - Auspion Caster Semenya. chase to lead a Kenyan 1-2-3. monwealth men's steeplechase The African champion

tralia's world pole vault champion Steve Hooker claimed Commonwealth gold on Monday while Richard Mateelong upstaged his more illustrious Kenyan countrymen to win the 3,000m steeplechase title.

On a day overshadowed by the Games' first positive drugs test, India pulled off a stunning clean sweep in the discus, winning the country's first athletics gold in 52 years and only their second ever.

Kenya's Nancy Langat, meanwhile, bagged a 800-1500m double when she powered to the shorter distance gold medal, making the most of the absence of world cham-

Seven gold medals were decided at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, with Hooker, who is also Olympic champion, clearing 5.60 metres to easily defend his title.

Hooker is the only vaulter to pass the magical 6.0m barrier in 2010 with no-one else in the Delhi field having jumped higher than 5.50m this year.

"I had the pressure on so I am very happy to get it done," said Hooker. "It's absolutely thrilling to defend my title."

While many nations have diminished teams in New Delhi, Kenya has a strong squad and Mateelong stamped his authority on the steeplecrossed the line in a pedestrian 8:16.40 but ahead of world champion Ezekiel Cheboi and Olympic champion Brimin Kipruto.

"It's quite fantastic. This was very hard to do but I am glad I got it," he said of beating his teammates.

A Kenyan victory was always on the cards with the country winning every Comfinal since 1990.

But it didn't all go Kenya's way with Uganda's Moses Kipsiro adding the 10,000m gold to the 5,000m one he already has.

Kipsiro crossed the line in 27:57.39 ahead of Kenya's Daniel Salel and another Kenyan, Joseph Birech.

"I said to myself that I could beat the Kenyans," said Kipsiro.

"In the first part of the race

Favre apologizes for scandal distraction: report

NEW YORK (AFP) - Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre apologized to his teammates on Monday for being a distraction because of reports that surfaced fast week, EŠPN reported Monday.

Allegations that Favre sent lewd photos and phone messages to a former employee of the New York Jets, Jenn Sterger, surfaced last week and are under a fast track investigation by the NFL, the network's website reported.

Sterger reportedly has yet

to speak with NFL investigators but is willing to cooperate with a probe that could lead to a punishment imposed by the league, provided officiais find enough evidence to support the claims.

Asked about the scandal. Favre told ESPN, "That will take its course," and added, "I hate in any way if this has been a distraction."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said no decision on possible action against Favre will be made until the investigation is completed.



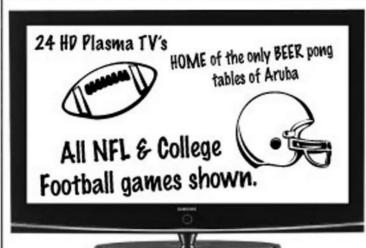
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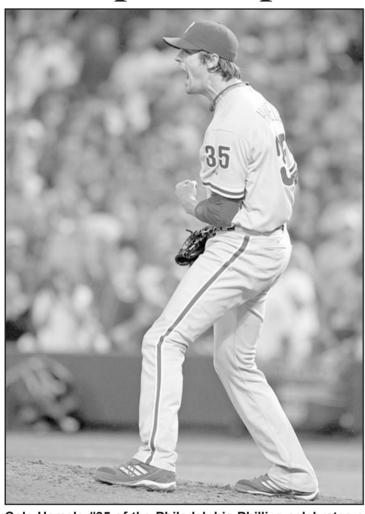


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Phillies sweep Reds to reach third straight NL championship series



Cole Hamels #35 of the Philadelphia Phillies celebrates a complete game shut-out against the Cincinnati Reds during Game 3.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Philadelphia Phillies completed a first-round playoff sweep by beating Cincinnati 2-0 Sunday on a brilliant pitching performance by Cole Hamels.

Hamels struck out nine in dominant five-hitter and Chase Utley hit a home run as the Phillies advanced to the NL championship series for the third consecutive sea-

Cole Hamels was the 2008 World Series MVP and threw his first career postseason complete game Sunday.

"We have experience on

our side," Hamels said. "When you have been in these moments before you know how to handle yourself and how to put the crowd away.'

In the other National League game Sunday, the San Francisco Giants came from behind to beat Atlanta 3-2 on a series of blunders by infielder Brooks Conrad in game three of their series.

Hamels improved to 7-0 in eight career starts against Cincinnati and 6-3 in 11 career postseason outings overall. He allowed only two runners to reach second and



Atlanta Braves second baseman Brooks Conrad sits in the dugout after the Braves loss 3-2 to the San **Francisco Giants**

none of the Reds got to third. "I have positive energy everytime I come here," Hamels said. "We are hitting the ball, stealing bases and able to score. It helps when you are playing good defence

and we can do everything." That includes Utley who

connected against Johnny Cueto in the fifth, giving the Phillies a 2-0 lead.

It was Utley's 10th career playoff home run, moving him past teammate Jayson Werth and into first on the club's career list.

Conrad's third error of the contest led to Freddy Sanchez scoring the go-ahead run in the ninth inning for San Francisco who lead the NL series two games to one.

"It's completely embar-rassing, once again I felt I let everybody down," Conrad said. "I feel absolutely terrible right now. I wish I could just dig a hole and go sleep in there. It's something you have to get over quick.

The winner of this series will start the NLCS on the road against Philadelphia on Saturday.

Pinch-hitter Eric Hinske clubbed a two-run homer off Giants pitcher Sergio Romo in the bottom of the eighth to give Atlanta a 2-1 lead. But San Francisco scored twice in the ninth with two outs.

Aubrey Huff singled in Travis Ishikawa to tie the game, and with runners on first and second, Buster Posey grounded a ball that went through the legs of Conrad and into the outfield.

Braves rookie reliever Craig Kimbrel was within one out of the save before the Giants rallied.

San Francisco's Jonathan Sanchez took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and ended up striking out 11 in just over seven innings of work. Tim Hudson gave up one unearned run on four hits over seven innings in the start for the Braves.

"A very intense game, great game," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "There are two starting pitchers that were going at it and pitching very well, but that ninth inning, emotions were running high."

MLB playoff schedule

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TAMPA BAY VS TEXAS

TEXAS 5, TAMPA BAY 1 (Texas leads 1-0) TEXAS 6, TAMPA BAY 0 (Texas leads 2-0) TAMPA BAY 6, TEXAS 3 (Texas leads 2-1) TAMPA BAY5, TEXAS 2 (Series tied 2-2) TUE., OCT. 12 -- TEXAS AT TAMPA BAY (X)

MINNESOTA VS NEW YORK

NEW YORK 6, MINNESOTA 4 (NY leads 1-0) NEW YORK 5, MINNESOTA 2 (NY leads 2-0) NEW YORK 6, MINNESOTA 1 (NY Iwins 3-0)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PHILADELPHIA VS CINCINNATI

PHILADELPHIA 4, CINCINNATI 0 (Phil. leads 1-0) PHILADELPHIA 7, CINCINNATI 4 (Phil leads 2-0) PHILADELPHIA 2, CINCINNATI 0 (Phil. wins series 3-0) MON., OCT. 11 -- PHILADELPHIA AT CINCINNATI (X) WED., OCT. 13 -- CINCINNATI AT PHILADELPHIA (X)

SANFRANCISCO VS ATLANTA

SAN FRANCISCO 1, ATLANTA 0 (SFleads 1-0) ATLANTA 5, SAN FRANCISCO 4 (Series tied 1-1) SAN FRANCISCO 3, ATLANTA 2 (SF leads 2-1) SUN., OCT. 10 -- MINNESOTA AT NEW YORK (X) MON., OCT. 11 -- SAN FRANCISCO AT ATLANTA(X) TUE., OCT. 12 -- NEW YORK AT MINNESOTA (X) | WED., OCT. 13 -- ATLANTA AT SAN FRANCISCO(X)

DIVISION SERIES (BEST-OF-FIVE) * (X) IF NECESSARY

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I'm going to batter Klitschko into retiring: Briggs



US heavyweight boxer Shannon Briggs (R) adresses his Ukrainian opponent WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko during a press conference in Hamburg. AFP **PHOTO**

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) -Ukraine's WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko will be beaten so badly next Saturday in Hamburg that he will be forced to retire, said American challenger Shannon Briggs on Monday.

Briggs, the WBO champion from 2006-7 and with a record of 51 victories, with 45 inside the distance including a record 27 stopped in the first round, five defeats and one no contest, said that Vitali had made a bad choice in selecting him as his opponent.

"I really feel for you," the 38-year-old said, addressing Klitschko at their joint press

conference. "But you have made a bad

choice: you are going to meet an adversary that you have



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never met before. I can hit, box and dodge my opponent's punches.

who Briggs, claims he has shed nearly 40 kilogrammes for the bout -- even going as far as tearing off his t-shirt to prove it, said that after he had dispensed with Vitali he would take on his younger brother Vladimir, the WBO and IBF world champion.

Klitschko tried to intervene on several occasions at the press conference but Briggs

steadfastly refused to give way and the 39-year-old Ukrainian was only able to speak after the American who has supplemented his income with supporting roles in several Hollywood films had walked out of the room.

'It is not easy to find an adversary for me or my brother. Shannon accepted immediately to fight me and I thank him for that," said Klitschko, who has held the title since October 2008 on his return after a four year hiatus.

"But when I hear him say he is going to propel me into retirement, that just makes me laugh.

"I am ready and I am going to show that I deserve to wear this belt which has been worn by (Mike) Tyson, (Lennox) Lewis and Muhammad Ali," added Klitschko, whose overall record stands at just two defeats in 42

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Red Wings coach Babcock extends contract

DETROIT (AFP) - Mike Babcock signed a four-year contract extension on Monday to remain as coach of the National Hockey League's Detroit Red Wings, general manager Ken Holland announced on Monday.

Babcock coached Canada to a gold medal last February at the Vancouver Winter Olympics and a World Championships crown in 2004.

Babcock, in his sixth season with the Red Wings, has a record of 259-101 with 52 regulation draws since taking over the NHL club in 2005. He also spent two seasons guiding Anaheim, going 67-62-33 with the Ducks.

The 47-year-old is the first coach in NHL history to guide his club to four 50-win seasons in his first four seasons with a team.

The Red Wings have had the NHL's best regular-season record twice in his tenure, 2006 and 2008, and Babcock guided Detroit to the Stanley Cup title in 2008 and a finals loss to Pittsburgh in 2009.



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